

Minutes of Meeting
Tulare County Flood Control Commissioners
Friday, November 20, 2015, 8:00 AM
Tulare County Resource Management Agency Conference Room

Attendees:

Commissioners present: Dale Brogan; Mark Larsen; Dan Vink, Chairman; Doug Jackson; Fergus Morrissey; Walter Bricker and Dale West, Vice-Chairman.
Commissioner absent: none

County representation: Reed Schenke and Alfredo Reynoso-Haro with Resource Management Agency (RMA.).

Visitors: Bruce Howarth, Alpaugh Irrigation District general manager.

Agenda Items:

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM.

Item 2. Minutes of October 23, 2015 meeting:

A motion by Dale Brogan to approve the minutes was seconded by Mark Larsen and approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3. Public comment period: None

Item 4. Staff report on Flood Control District matters:

A. Briefing from Previous Storm Events

As everyone knows, we had a couple of small storms, causing some localized ponding, but nothing out of the ordinary.

B. Success Reservoir Enlargement Project

Chairman Vink informed the commission and staff that there was a session with the five agencies that are participants and the local Joint Powers Association (JPA) for the Success Reservoir enlargement project, the five agencies are: City of Porterville, County of Tulare, County of Kings, Tulare Lake Basin and Lower Tule. One of the main items in the meeting was to verify what the status of the project is. It was determined that the storage restrictions and dam safety issues are being overcome. Another item in the session was to determine the level of commitment of the five agencies regarding the project. The response was that all five agencies still seem interested, however the staff will be reporting back to their respective Boards and will request direction. Tulare County plans to go to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in January.

C. El Niño Preparations

a. Coordination with Office Emergency Services (OES) and Emergency Responders

RMA and OES had a training session for RMA group, road responders. A separate training session was held for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which respond to fires, flooding and other types of emergencies.

The director of OES is inviting the Irrigation Districts and other Special Districts representatives that may be interested in participating. The EOC is activated when multiple requests for aid are identified and individual entities are not capable of providing the response that is needed. The County EOC acts as the funnel through which aid requests go on to the State and Federal level. One of the biggest concerns from the local agencies is reimbursement by the state for emergency operation activities. Coordination with the EOC is a requirement of this reimbursement.

Tulare County has prepared a document called Storm Response Procedure, a handout was provided to the commissioners. This document outlines the locations of the self-service sandbag stations for the public.

b. Channel clearing efforts update

We are continuing channel clearing activities under the Fish and Wildlife agreement in place, we are planning to attempt to increase the existing scope of the permit which limits work to within 200 feet of bridges and culverts.

D. Report on the status of the flood control projects

a. Seville-Sontag Ditch

We have contacted the property owners and sent the right-of-way agreements, we expect the agreements back in about three weeks, at which time we will go to the BOS for approval and can move forward with construction.

b. Juvenile Detention Facility-Cottonwood Creek

Chairman Vink said it might be helpful that the Flood Control Commission makes a request, with a letter, to the BOS to take formal action on using Flood Control Department funds.

Item 5. Consider other business:

Commissioner Dale Brogan stated that due to new technology the gauging stations in upstream portions of the White River no longer communicate with the satellites. The irrigation district has some expenses associated with upgrades to these gauging stations and would like to get some help on the process to request reimbursement. Flood Control District can look into possible cost sharing. Additional information regarding costs to be provided by Commissioner Brogan.

Item 6. Set next Flood Control Commission meeting:

The next Flood Control Commission meeting was set for Friday, January 22, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the main conference room at RMA's office,

Item 7. Adjourn meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 a.m.